



Clean Energy Future Committee

Date: February 23, 2024

Time: 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Remote Format Meeting

Minutes

Attendance:

- Members Remote: Amos Meeks, James DiTullio, John Alessi, Marc Breslow, Nellie Aikenhead, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Shelly Dein, Talia Fox
- Members Absent: Aimee Graeber, David Morgan, Eric Helmuth, Jim Feeney
- Also attending: Damon Bosetti, Pat Hanlon

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am.

• Virtual Meeting Reminders

- If there is a technical failure, we will try to relaunch the meeting three times.
- If we are unable to relaunch and there are more than 20 minutes left in the meeting, the CEFC will reconvene the following Friday.
- If there are fewer than 20 minutes left, the CEFC will carry the remaining agenda items forward to the next meeting.

• Review and Approve 11/17/2023 Meeting Minutes & Update

- November 17, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

1. ACE Contract Renewal

- R. Katofsky & T. Fox

Arlington Community Electricity (ACE) has been Arlington's municipal or community choice aggregation program since 2017. The program allows Arlington to procure electricity supply on behalf of residents. ACE offers customers different options, at different rates. Customers currently receiving discounted rates are also eligible for discounted rates through ACE. The default ACE product right currently adds 30% additional Class I renewable energy above what the State requires. Three other products are also available. The 50% and 100% products which add 50% and 100% above what the State requires; and the ACE basic product doesn't add any renewable energy on top of what the State requires. ACE is required by the State to offer the basic product.

Over 15,000 accounts enrolled, which is about 78% of accounts in Town. Over 1,200 accounts are enrolled in the 100% product, which is about 8% of accounts. Since 2017, participants have saved \$10 million, about \$672 per

account. Customers are purchasing more than 1,300 megawatt hours of additional renewable energy annually.

The ACE contract is up for renewal with an opportunity to increase the default product. The next step could help the Town get closer to the NZAP goal of 100% renewables in the default by 2030.

The Town could increase the default sum without increasing residents' bills compared to the current contract.

Are longer contracts available? Typically, the contracts are 2 to 3 years, but could a longer contract yield a lower rate? Longer contracts may be more difficult to acquire. Will inquire with Good Energy about contract lengths. Directly purchasing utilities at a lower rate from wind turbines or solar farms could be an option but possibly not readily available yet.

Eventually obtaining advanced metering, offer more load management programs through ACE, or some other flexible products that improve our or low profile and help lower procurement costs.

How many households opted down? How to ensure low-income households aren't excluded from participating due to cost, possibly adjust products offered to provide improved pricing.

Of the 15,221 total participants, 747 participants are enrolled in the basic product, and 257 participants in the 50% product.

More opportunities exist to educate residents, including low-income residents in the community, about their options. Outreach can be targeted to community organizations with close tie to low-income residents.

The Town Manager is sensitive to balancing both the desire to get closer to NZAP goals, while also not increasing the cost for residents, particularly in this in this market and inflation. The Manager is not excited about raising utility costs for residents and would welcome lowering them, if possible.

The contract renewal can be an opportunity to provide some rate relief. How much relief will depend on contract bids.

2. NZAP Tracking and Update

-T. Fox

Ways to track progress with NZAP goals and improve communication surrounding those goals. Help with tracking and communicating goals would be appreciated. The NZAP plan priorities and goals are supposed to be reevaluated every 5 years, and it was passed 3 years ago. Now would be the time to think about funding if the NZAP is going to get updated.

A combination of tracking action item progress: Have we started them? Have we done them? Other metrics that are worth communicating. Residents may be interested in the data related to ACE (amount of money saved, percent

renewable energy purchased, etc.). Is there a way to track how many buildings are being electrified?

Which items from NZAP should be prioritized, should others be dropped? The Town is updating the Town Master Plan, which presents an opportunity engagement from CEFC could be beneficial for NZAP goals. The Master Plan kick-off is February 29th.

Any warrant articles that CEFC could be advocating for that might overlap with NZAP goals?

S. Dein, A. Meeks, and P. Miettinen volunteered to help track goals. T. Fox will find some time to discuss.

3. Sustainability Updates

- T. Fox

Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration program

Arlington is officially in the Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration program. Currently, planning outreach to builders with Mike Ciampa and Sarah Suarez through a public forum, that will also include the Specialized Stretch Code. FFF will officially take effect May 21, 90 days after officially receiving approval from DOER to participate.

At what stage is a project considered a legacy project and not subject to the FFF bylaw? T. Fox will check in with Mike Ciampa on this topic.

Draft Zero Emission Vehicle Policy

Policy is a work in progress. The Chief of Police, Fire Chief, and DPW have provided some input for policy. Still need to clarify some items from the State and related information/process for Climate Leader Communities.

R. Katofsky will provide a short letter to Select Board about ACE contract renewal. If a letter is not presented, then the information could be worked into the presentation. Having a letter or memo ahead of time is useful for members of the public and the Town Manager.

• Confirm Next Meeting Date March 22nd

S. Dein moved to adjourn, A. Meeks seconded. Unanimous vote in favor to adjourn.

Submitted by Aimee Graeber 4/16/2024